(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Expenditure incurred in deployment and withdrawal of troops from border

151. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of expenditure incurred by Government on the deployment of forces along the Indo-Pak Border and their subsequent withdrawal;

(b) the amount of compensation paid to the people whose normal life has been affected by such deployment;

(c) whether any incident arising out of stress related syndrome affected the forces in course of the deployment, as have been reported in the press;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether any review of the experience in security terms is being made by Government of the deployment and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) the expenditure can be assessed only after the redeployment is complete.

(b) The amount of compensation paid/being paid to concerned States for farmers whose crops were adversely affected by deployment, and land or buildings which were acquired/rented, etc, is approximately Rs. 300 crores.

(c) and (d) No incident among the forces arising out of stress related syndrome in course of their deployment has been reported to the Army Head Quarters.

(e) The Government have decided to carry out strategic relocation of troops without compromising the capacity to respond decisively to any emergency, and without lowering of vigil in Jammu and Kashmir.

The experience gained during the mobilization of formations has enabled the Army to reassess and revalidate its operational plans and procedures.

MIG-21 crash in Ambala and Rajasthan

152. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that two MIG-21 aircrafts crashed on September 9, 2002, one at Ambala and the other in Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the causes of the crash and whether they were attributale to mechanical defects;

(c) whether in view of the fact that MIG aircrafts have been named as flying coffins, Government have reviewed the desirability of continuing to fly them and use them as combat aircraft; and

(d) if so, the outcome of the review?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b)The exact causes are being determined by the Courts of Inquiry.

(c) and (d)The view that the MIG-21 is a flying coffin is not correct. The aircraft is fully airworthy and reliable.

However, progressive phasing out of older variants of MIG-21 has already commenced.

Venkataswami Commission Report

153. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Venkataswami Commission probing into the so called "Tehelka" defence deal, has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the main finding thereof; and

(c) the action taken thereon?